

**SOLE**  
**(SOCIETY OF LOGISTICS ENGINEERS)**

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- INCREASED AWARENESS/COMRADSHIP/  
NETWORKING AMONG LOGISTICIANS  
(SUPPORT PLANNERS AND PROVIDERS)
- SHARED RESOURCES  
(LESS DUPLICATION OF EFFORT)
- EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS OF CENTER  
SUPPORT TO THE FLEET
- PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, RECOGNITION,  
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- LEF - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH  
LOCAL INDUSTRIES, UNIVERSITIES AND  
BUSINESSES

54. There are many professional groups of engineers and logisticians who are concerned about their company or activity. In 1987, I began contacting Center Logistics Management Specialists for the purpose of forming an association of logisticians. We met several times and developed a list of reasons why such an association could be of great mutual benefit to each other and to the Center. If we knew what each other was doing, we could provide assistance when needed, and expand our individual specialized knowledge and resources (like logistics-related analytical tools, computer programs and document formats) into a wider range of common knowledge and available resources.

In May 1988 we became chartered as the Southern Indiana chapter of SOLE. Since then we have enhanced our Center training department efforts by bringing high quality logistics courses and instructors on Center. This has resulted in increased awareness of logistics support concepts among other Center personnel, increased professional development, higher career ladders for some personnel, and better support to our sponsors and to the personnel who use our equipment. SOLE has also given its members many opportunities to be leaders in solving short term problems, to get involved with high level Department of Defense and Industry decision making, to give presentations at national symposia

and receive recognition for significant accomplishments. Some colleges have student chapters of SOLE.

SOLE is one of several service organizations in Southern Indiana. Some of its services are incorporated within the Logistics Education Foundation. LEF seeks to serve three groups of people; students, colleges and businesses. Students are the main focus because they are the ones who become the next generation of educators and business people. Students who seek education in fields related to support (especially those within the engineering and business management disciplines) can apply for LEF scholarships. These scholarships are funded by SOLE, from annual dues and proceeds from local training symposia fees. We have awarded 10 scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$1000 to college students studying in support-related fields, some of which are Center employees and one who is a Professor at IU School of Business. Other similar professional associations include Federal Managers Association (FMA), American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE), Society of Mechanical Engineers (SME), Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Indiana Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE).

LEF nationwide has also provided guidance and grants to establish logistics curriculum at many colleges, universities and community colleges. For example, the University of Colorado offers a full degree in Logistics Engineering. Some of our local members helped develop a logistics certificate program at IU Business School.

The best engineers, managers and technicians are those who understand how to plan ahead for performance as well as support and readiness of their products. But, many students of management, engineering and technical schools are not exposed to the wide range of support concepts, so any

understanding they do have about support is limited to intuition or common sense, or else they begin learning through on-the-job or special training they receive after being hired into a company that has product and customer support services. This costs the company extra time and money. The money saved by these companies by hiring personnel who are already familiar with support concepts can be a source of funding grants to colleges for logistics curriculum development.

